

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An unsolicited e-mail ~~internet~~-Internet protocol source address verification method comprising:
receiving a request for authorization to forward an electronic mail message;
responding to said request for authorization to forward said electronic mail message, wherein a response to said request for authorization includes an authorization indicator that indicates a source of said request for authorization, wherein the authorization indicator is sent after authorization; and
handling receipt of said electronic mail message, including verifying a source address included in the received said electronic mail message against an address said authorization indicator is sent to.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ unsolicited e-mail ~~internet~~-Internet protocol source address verification method of claim ~~Claim~~ 1 wherein said request is initiated by a source of said electronic mail message and said request asks a simple mail transfer protocol agent for authorization to send an electronic mail message to a destination serviced by said simple mail transfer protocol agent.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ unsolicited e-mail ~~internet~~-Internet protocol source address verification method of claim ~~Claim~~ 1 wherein said authorization indicator is sent to a source address identified in said request.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ unsolicited e-mail ~~internet-Internet~~ protocol source address verification method of claim ~~Claim~~ 1 further comprising performing an indication generator process in which an authorization indicator is generated.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ unsolicited e-mail ~~internet-Internet~~ protocol source address verification method of claim ~~Claim~~ 5 wherein said authorization indicator is a unique bit string.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ unsolicited e-mail ~~internet-Internet~~ protocol source address verification method of claim ~~Claim~~ 1 further comprising tracking said source address.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ unsolicited e-mail ~~internet-Internet~~ protocol source address verification method of claim ~~Claim~~ 1 further comprising inserting an entry into said electronic mail message indicating an address an authorization indicator is sent to before forwarding said electronic mail message to an end use destination.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ unsolicited e-mail ~~internet-Internet~~ protocol source address verification method of claim ~~Claim~~ 1 further comprising:
extracting a request source address from said request; and
utilizing said request source address as a destination address in a header file of a return package including authorization indicator information.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:
a processor for processing information and instructions, including instructions for verifying and tracking a source of an unsolicited electronic message; and
a memory for storing information and instructions, including instructions for verifying and tracking said source of said unsolicited electronic message and verifying an address of said source included in said unsolicited electronic message against an address an

authorization indicator is sent to, wherein the authorization indicator is sent after authorization,
said memory coupled to said processor.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ computer system of claim 11 wherein
said instructions direct determination of electronic message authorization.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ computer system of claim 11 wherein
said instructions include:

formulating a request for permission to forward an electronic message including a
permission request source address;

analyzing said request for permission;

sending a permission reply to said permission request source address;

forwarding an electronic message, including said permission indicator in a header;

and

tracking said permission request source address and a source address of said
electronic message when received.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ computer system of claim 13 wherein a
message initiator inserts an indication in a header of a communication packet that said initiator is
attempting to establish a communication link for a purpose of forwarding a message to a
particular destination, said header also includes an indication of an initiator or source address.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ computer system of claim 13 wherein
said permission reply includes a permission indicator.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ computer system of claim 15 wherein a
time stamp is maintained ~~of~~ when said permission indicator is generated.

17. (Currently Amended) An ~~[[an]]~~ unsolicited electronic message source
tracking method comprising:

obtaining a verification indication; and

forwarding an unsolicited electronic message with said verification indication to an address said verification indication was sent from.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ unsolicited electronic message source tracking method of claim ~~Claim~~ 17 further comprising transmitting a request to send said unsolicited electronic message, wherein said request includes a request sender's identification.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ unsolicited electronic message source tracking method of claim ~~Claim~~ 18 wherein said request is transmitted to a simple mail transfer protocol agent and said simple mail transfer protocol agent forwards a verification indicator to a request sender's source address.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[An]]~~ unsolicited electronic message source tracking method of claim ~~Claim~~ 19 said verification indicator is a unique bit string.